## **Court Information Release**



UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS HOWARD T. MARKEY NATIONAL COURTS BUILDING 717 MADISON PLACE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20439

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United States Court of Federal Claims

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## THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE J. BLOCK RETIRING JANUARY 8, 2016

WASHINGTON, DC - Chief Judge Patricia E. Campbell-Smith announced that Judge Lawrence J. Block is retiring effective today.

Judge Block was confirmed as a judge to the United States Court of Federal Claims on October 2, 2002. Prior to his confirmation, from 1994 to 2002, Judge Block served as Senior Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where he worked on a number of significant issues, including property rights legislation, punitive damages and class action court reform bills, cost-benefit analysis regulatory reform, tobacco policy, litigation and arbitration policy, and issues involving the First Amendment, privacy, and other constitutional provisions arising out of legislation and governmental programs related to high technology.

Prior to his service as Senior Counsel, he served in various positions in the Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Reagan administrations. From 1986 to 1990, he was an attorney at the United States Department of Justice. Judge Block was a litigation attorney in the Department's Commercial Litigation Branch in 1986, and from 1987 to 1990, he served as Senior Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Policy and Policy Development where he specialized in constitutional law with a focus on federalism, takings law, separation of powers, presidential power, and foreign affairs issues. From 1990 to 1994, he served as Acting General Counsel for Legal Policy and Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Legal Policy at the United States Department of Energy, where he engaged in numerous complex issues involving environmental and energy regulatory law.

Before entering the public sector, from 1983 to 1986, Judge Block served as an associate with the New York office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, where his substantive areas of practice included constitutional claims involving Commerce Clause and commercial speech issues, financial services claims, as well as mergers and acquisitions, securities, labor, and administrative law issues.

Judge Block received a B.A. degree from New York University in 1973, graduating magna cum laude. He received his law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 1981, and after law school he clerked for the Honorable Roger J. Miner, who was then a district court judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Judge Block served as an Adjunct Professor at the George Mason University School of Law from 1990 to 1991. He is the author of law review and periodical articles on constitutional law and foreign affairs issues.

The United States Court of Federal Claims is a court of record with national jurisdiction that was recreated in October 1982 by the Federal Courts Improvement Act pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution. The court consists of sixteen judges nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate for terms of fifteen years. The court is authorized to hear primarily money claims founded upon the Constitution, federal statutes, executive regulations, and contracts (express or implied in fact) with the United States. More information about the United States Court of Federal Claims is available on the court's website at <a href="https://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/">www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/</a>.

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